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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, October 29, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Philip J. Parker.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of our lives, I stand before You this day in the presence of those who, along with our President and House of Representatives, are responsible for the governance of our Nation and, to a large extent, the welfare of our world. I am acutely aware, dear Lord, that they are grappling with momentous issues in these challenging times at home and abroad.

As on previous occasions throughout our Nation's history, O Lord, I believe that we stand in need of Your divine guidance. We need the kind of insight and wisdom that comes from on high. We need minds and hearts that are in tune with Your spirit. We need a renewed sense of purpose, which is founded upon those divinely ordained principles that were established by our forefathers.

So come now and guide the Members of this Senate in their deliberations this day. May their words and their actions reflect the mind and the heart of the One who loves us and who has redeemed us through His Son in whose Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning we will return to the Amtrak legis-

lation. I am not certain the managers have that many amendments to deal with, so I don't think we will be in session for a long time working on this bill, but we are open for business. While no rollcall votes will occur today, the majority manager, working with Senator LOTT, is expected to be here to work with any Members who want to offer amendments.

I am going to shortly file cloture on this bill. This cloture vote will occur during Tuesday's session, and it is the expectations of the managers it can be concluded during Tuesday's session. Let me say, this is a rare cloture petition. It is signed by Democrats and Republicans in equal numbers. This is an extremely important bill for our country, and the Senate realizes that. I am hopeful and quite confident that we will not need cloture, but if we do, we can go ahead and do that. If we don't, that will save us some time. We have lots to do here that is so important.

I am also going to—unless something untoward comes—move to the farm bill a week from Monday or thereabouts. The reason for that is this is a bill we need to do every 5 years. While I, like many, think the bill could be better, I think the committee did a tremendously good job. There are a lot of reforms in this bill. For some there are not enough, but for the farm bill, I have seen a number of them come through here. It is certainly an improvement. I look forward to having the managers work through it in the quickest time possible. I congratulate the committee. They worked very hard to come up with this bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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